[*English*]

**LPG connections and agencies in Karnataka**

6408. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of LPG connections released so far in Karnataka;

(b) the district-wise number of applications pending for new connections;

(c) the steps being taken for the immediate release of LPG connections; and

(d) the number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to whom the LPG agencies have been allotted in Belgaum, Dharwad and Bijapur districts as on March 31,1991?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). As on 1.4.91 there were 8.42 Lakhs LPG consumers and 2.62 lakhs persons were on the waiting list in Karnataka.

(c) Efforts are on the given LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible.

(d) Seven.

**Memorandum of Understanding for Wage Settlement**

6409. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Memorandum of understanding lying with the Government for wage settlement;

(b) the stages at which they are pending; and

(c) when they are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c).There Memoranda of Understanding for wage settlement are under examination.

**Sale and Reservation of Fake Tickets**

6410. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 4 September, 1990 to Unstarred Question No. 4439 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry into the sale and reservation of fake tickets by reservation clerks working in the reservation office at Allahabad junction has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the persons found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The allegations made in the complaint against the railway staff have not been substantiated. However, an outsider who was involved in the sale of fake ticket at Allahabad, had been arrested by the Government Railway Police. A criminal case has been filed in the Allahabad Court under sections 420/467/468/471 of I.P.C.

[*Translation*]

**Loss in Catering Units in Railways**

6411. SHRI RAM BADAN:Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the catering department of Railways is running in losses despite the continuous increase in the sale;

(b) the details of the profit earned/loss incurred by the department during last three years;

(c) whether the catering unit at Varanasi station is running in losses continuously from 1984 to 1990;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found responsible for it and the steps taken to streamline the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN ): (a) and (b) The sales turnover and profit/loss of Departmental Catering on Indian Railways for last three years are as under:

| *Year* | *Sales Turnover (Rupees in crores)* | *Profit/Loss (Rupees in crores)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1987-88 | 56.33 | (-) 0.30 |
| 1988-89 | 65.71 | (-) 0.71 |
| 1989-90 | 72.18 | (-) 0.23 |

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The losses are mainly due to increase in input costs as well as staff costs. The staff costs have gone up because Commission Vendors are being paid the same salary as regular employee under Court orders.

(e) Question of fixation of responsibility does not arise in view of above. Steps taken/ proposed to be taken to reduce/eliminate losses include strict monitoring of expenditure, sales promotion, intensive inspections and de-departmentalisation.

**Contract Labour System in Railways**

6412. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether contract labour system is still going on in the Railways;

(b) whether the contract labourers are being exploited; and

(c) whether the Government have taken a decision to do away with this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir. In certain establishments/operations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

[*English*]

**Transfer of Pune-Miraj Section**

6413. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from various public